

## **CLAIMS**

### **WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method, comprising:  
indicating to one or more remote systems in a distributed system that a task is  
5 available for processing based on a distribution list;  
receiving at least one response from the one or more remote systems capable of  
performing the task responsive to the indication; and  
allowing at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on the at least  
one received response.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the distribution list comprises destination  
addresses associated with the one or more remote systems, wherein indicating to the one or  
more remote systems comprises providing a message to a router that, responsive to the  
message, transmits at least a portion of the message to a plurality of the remote systems based  
15 on the distribution list.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the task is at least one of a compilation task,  
video processing task, audio processing task, image processing task, encryption task, and  
decryption task, and wherein indicating to the one or more remote systems comprises  
indicating a threshold criterion that the one or more remote systems should satisfy, and  
wherein receiving the at least one response comprises receiving the at least one response from  
the one or more remote systems that satisfy the threshold criterion.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein indicating the threshold criterion comprises indicating at least one of a preselected processing speed, memory size, and network speed that is desired for the one or more remote systems.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the at least one response comprises receiving configuration information associated with the one or more remote systems.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the configuration information comprises receiving information including at least one of a processing speed, memory size, network speed, and load level associated with the one or more remote systems.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein allowing at least one of the remote systems to perform the task comprises allowing at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on a selection scheme.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the selection scheme comprises at least one of allowing a remote system that responds first to perform the task and allowing a remote system to perform the compilation task based on the received configuration information.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of indicating comprises indicating that the compilation task is available for processing, and wherein the act of receiving comprises receiving the at least one response from a remote system that has reserved at least a portion of its resources for performing the task.

10. An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

indicate to a plurality of remote systems in a distributed system that a task is available

for processing based on a list identifying the remote systems; and

allow at least one of the plurality of remote systems to perform the task.

11. The article of claim 10, wherein the task is a compilation task, and wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to allow at least one of the plurality of remote systems based on a selection scheme.

12. The article of claim 11, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to allow that remote system which responds first to perform the task.

13. The article of claim 11, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to allow the remote system having at least one of a higher processing speed among the plurality of responding remote systems to perform the task and a desirable performance characteristic, wherein the performance characteristic is determined based on past performance.

14. The article of claim 11, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to allow a plurality of remote systems to perform the task in response to determining that a number of responding remote systems exceed a number of available tasks.

15. The article of claim 11, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to receive responses from at least one of the plurality of the remote systems,

wherein the response includes configuration information associated with the one or more remote systems.

16. The article of claim 10, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to multicast a request to the plurality of remote systems coupled to a network that the task is available for processing.

17. The article of claim 10, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to receive results from the at least one remote system that is allowed to perform the task.

18. An apparatus, comprising:  
means for indicating to one or more remote systems in a distributed compilation system that a task is available for processing based on a list identifying the one or more remote systems;  
means for receiving at least one response from the one or more remote systems capable of performing the task based on the indication; and  
means for allowing at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on the at least one received response.

19. An apparatus, comprising:  
an interface adapted to communicate with one or more remote systems; and  
a control unit communicatively coupled to the interface, the control unit adapted to:

indicate to the one or more remote systems in a distributed compilation system  
that a task is available for processing based on a list identifying the one  
or more remote systems;  
receive at least one response from the one or more remote systems capable of  
performing the task based on the indication; and  
allow at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on the at  
least one received response.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the task is a compilation task, and wherein  
the control unit is adapted to multicast a message to a plurality of the remote systems on a  
network that a compilation task is available.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the control unit is adapted to indicate a  
threshold criterion that the one or more remote systems should satisfy and further adapted to  
receive the at least one response from the one or more remote systems that satisfy the  
threshold criterion.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control unit is adapted to indicate at  
least one of a minimum processing speed, memory amount, and network speed that is desired  
for the one or more remote systems.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control unit is adapted to receive  
configuration information associated with the one or more remote systems.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the control unit is adapted to receive information including at least one of a processing speed, memory size, network speed, and load level associated with the one or more remote systems.

5           25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the control unit is adapted to allow at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on a selection scheme.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the selection scheme comprises allowing a remote system that responds first to perform the compilation task

10           27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the selection scheme comprises allowing a remote system to perform the compilation task based on the received configuration information.

15           28. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the control unit is adapted to identify the task that is available for processing in a queue that is accessible by one or more of the remote systems.

29. A distributed compilation system, comprising:

20           one or more remote systems;

          a client system adapted to:

          indicate to the one or more remote systems that a compilation task is available  
          for processing based on a list identifying the one or more remote  
          systems;

receive at least one response from the one or more remote systems capable of performing the compiling task based on the indication; and allow at least one of the remote systems to perform the compilation task based on the at least one received response.

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30. The distributed compilation system of claim 29, wherein the client system multicasts a message to the one or more remote networks over a data network.

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31. The distributed compilation system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the remote systems is adapted to:

detect an indication from the client system that a compilation task is available for processing;

determine if the at least one remote system is capable of processing the compilation task; and

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process the compilation task for the client system in response to determining that at least one remote system is capable of processing the compilation task.

32. A method, comprising:

detecting an indication from a client system to process one or more compilation tasks;

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determining if a system that detects the indication is capable of processing at least one of the compilation task in response to detecting the indication from the client system; and

processing the at least one compilation task for the client system in response to

determining that the remote system is capable of processing the compilation task.

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33. The method of claim 32, further comprising providing results of the processing to the client system.

5 34. The method of claim 32, wherein the processing comprises accessing a queue associated with the client system and determining the compilation task to process.

35. A method, comprising:

indicating to one or more remote systems in a distributed system that a task is

10 available for processing;

receiving at least one response from the one or more remote systems capable of

performing the task responsive to the indication; and

allowing at least one of the remote systems to perform the task based on the at least one received response.

15 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the distributed system is a distributed compilation system, and wherein indicating comprises indicating to the one or more remote systems that a compilation task is available for processing and wherein receiving the at least one response comprises receiving the at least one response from the one or more remote  
20 systems capable of performing the compilation task responsive to the indication.